GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:875
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000
LIFTING OF BAN ON SALE OF NON-IODISED SALT
SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has lifted the ban on the sale on non-iodised salt enforced in the year 1980;

(b) whether the Government have taken any expert opinion from Medical Experts before lifting the ban; and

(c) the factors prompted the Government for such a decision?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a): A notification has been issued on 10.5.2000 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inviting comments from the public on the proposal to remove the restriction on the sale of non-iodised salt for direct human consumption which came into effect on 27.5.1998.

(b)&(c): The decision to issue the notification proposing removal of the restriction on sale of non iodised salt for direct human consumption was based on the repeated representations received from certain segments of society that there should be no compulsion in measures promoting public health, which should be left to the `informed choice` of the people.
Comments have been received from the public, including medical experts, both supporting and opposing the proposal to remove the restriction on sale of non-iodised salt. All shades of opinion will be carefully considered in the Ministry of Health and F.W. before taking a final view in the matter.